



OIFIG AN AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

3 March 1989

Mr. Salam Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1 7EP
ENGLAND

Dear Secretary General,

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., has asked me to reply to your letter to him of 30 January, 1989 concerning Afghanistan.

The Irish Government fully shares your concern about the situation in Afghanistan and hopes that following on the recent Soviet withdrawal all parties concerned may find it possible to agree among themselves to a peaceful resolution of their differences, which would serve to spare the people of Afghanistan from any further suffering and would open the way for the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Afghanistan, to which the international community has already pledged significant financial support.

At the European Council meeting of 27/28 June, 1988 the Taoiseach and the other European heads of Government called on all concerned to implement fully the peace process set out in the Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan and declared the readiness of the European Community and its Member States to provide humanitarian assistance under the programme to be carried out by the United Nations Coordinator, NGOs and the ICRC in favour of the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of the refugees and displaced persons. The Council also declared that the Community and its Member States were prepared to provide reconstruction assistance for Afghanistan after the formation of a representative Government and the establishment of internal peace. The Irish Government, as part of the general European Community response, announced at the United Nations Pledging

Conference on Afghanistan on 12 October, 1988 that it was allocating £70,000 to assist the United Nations coordinated relief programme for Afghanistan. More recently the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community, meeting in Madrid on 14 February, 1989, reiterated their continued support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to assist the formation of a fully representative Government in Afghanistan formed through a genuine act of self-determination. They stressed their readiness to contribute to the subsequent multilateral aid effort to resettle the refugees, help the innocent victims of war and reconstruct the country in close cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator.

You can be assured that Ireland will continue to monitor the situation in Afghanistan carefully and that together with the European Community and our fellow Member States we will endeavour to respond to the needs of the people of Afghanistan to the fullest extent possible.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Lenihan

Brian Lenihan, T.D.
Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs